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PAGE THAT knows some pyramids collapse from rain, others collapse from raids

GURUJEET SINGH DEVGUN

Tressed to impress

Actor-on-the-rise Ahaan Panday made heads turn in Bandra

Checkmate and chakras

MEET the prodigy princess. At 15, Suhaani Lohia, daughter of investment banker Sushir Lohia and jewellery designer Sheetal, just became the youngest certified teacher at the Sri Sri School of Yoga, your diarist has learnt. One of India's youngest to hold the Woman Candidate Master title in chess, she proudly wears the India jersey and has competed in 14 countries, returning with numerous medals along the way. Suhaani began early, your diarist has learnt. Class act in class too: Dhirubhai Ambani student, vice house captain, MUN rep, and winner of the Outstanding Learner Award. "She's a very hardworking child and a very old soul. Can't take credit for all that she's achieved," gushes mum Sheetal. "Rarely remember temper tantrums though she's a teen."

The Art of Living ashram in Bengaluru made it official just over a week ago, certifying Mumbai's most accomplished teenager as qualified to guide adults through breathing techniques and ancient wisdom. Talk about flipping the script—most 15-year-olds are still learning how to handle stress, while Suhaani's teaching grown-ups how to.

Suhaani Lohia with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Batting for every life

WEEKS ago, at an event in London, cricketing greats, including Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli, turned out in full force to back a cause close to Yuvraj Singh's heart. The fundraiser, led by his mother Shabnam, was part of what's been her mission since 2012 through YouWeCan. Under its Swasth Mahila Swasth Bharat programme, over 1.5 lakh women across India have been screened for breast cancer. "Each detection is a chance to save a life and a family," Shabnam told this diarist. "Cancer is cruel and expensive to treat; resources disappear practically overnight. We get over 100 calls a day for help, and no amount is enough because it's not just treatment, a lot needs to be done towards increasing awareness. Many women we help never knew they had breast cancer until we reached them; they didn't even know what it is." Her hope is simple: that more people give, and give now.

Yuvraj and Shabnam Singh

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Looking for a serious person who wants to settle down, get married and build a home. I'm selling cement

Smooth operator

JAZZ virtuoso Adil Manuel seduces rooms with six-string sorcery, then schools a fresh crop in the dark arts of improvisation. He is just back from a sultry summer at Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music near Puducherry, where professor mode met full-tilt swing. "I am very passionate about teaching. I find it to be a very personal process, because one is sharing their own technique and approach towards music, songwriting and improvisation," he tells your diarist. The thrill, clearly, is not only in the chord changes.

Now Mumbai gets the afterglow. Manuel readies a new album that promises serious Indo-Jazz fusion. "This music transcends many styles. Very different from anything I have done before," he says. Expect raga brushing blue notes, velvet heat over clean bite, a studio séance rather than a session. Your diarist predicts a citywide shortage of oxygen once it drops.

Adil Manuel

LIFE AT LARGE

Phani Tetali

"I love my boy and my boy loves my phone!"

Friends in focus

WHILE most of Mumbai was out chasing fireworks on Independence Day, a quieter spark lit up Kresha Bajaj's Pali Hill home. Around the table: Bajaj, Gaurav Punjabi, Bhoomi and Samiksha Pednekar, Karishma Tanna, and Ashiesh Shah. The food was as flawless as expected, but the evening wasn't just about plates—it was about plans. Bajaj spoke of her upcoming couture show, Shah teased a new festive collection, and the Pednekar sisters matched courses with their soon-to-launch water. The group also decided to make it more than dinner: a focus group of friends. We hear everyone also tossed around one big question that night—"If you could claim independence from one thing, what would it be?" Sadly, answers stayed between friends, but one can be sure, at least, that at Bajaj's dining table, no one sought independence from calories.

Kresha Bajaj, Gaurav Punjabi, Bhoomi and Samiksha Pednekar, Karishma Tanna, and Ashiesh Shah

Tailpiece

IT'S meant to be Mumbai's defining scandal, the one that will decide the city's ballot future. Yet, as investigators gingerly close in on errant babus, the farce on the sidelines is far juicier. The long-awaited chargesheet was finally ready, only for the man required to sign it to vanish on "leave." Whose desk will the dossier land on then? None other than a gentleman whose own name is scrawled across the very same papers, thanks to some rather extravagant Amsterdam getaways. The irony was too delicious: recognising that he may be summoned to initial his own downfall, he too filed for leave, slipping away as discreetly as a cat in couture. If this is what passes for governance, one wonders whether the elections need satire writers or ballot officers.